

REMARKS

Remaining Claims

Claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 21-28 are withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected species. Claim 14 has been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. After these amendments are entered, thirteen (13) claims (Claims 14-18 and 21-28), including withdrawn claims (claims 21-28), remain pending in this application through this Amendment.

Claim objections

Claims 15 and 16 were objected because of the formalities. Such objection has been overcome by the amendments of claims 15 and 16. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by March (US 2001/0034500). For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection over claims 14-18 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in contrast to the assertion of the examiner, the cited reference does not disclose nor teaches anything about molecular imprints for an analyte of interest distributed within a contact lens. What March discloses in US 2001/0034500 is an ophthalmic lens (e.g., contact lens) comprising a polymer meshwork containing pores, a receptor moiety, and a competitor moiety, wherein "the pores are of a size which permit the competitor moiety to bind reversibly to the analyte/competitor moiety binding site, but which prevent the receptor moiety and the competitor moiety from diffusing out of the ophthalmic lens" (paragraphs 17, 26 and 27). Applicants submit that the receptor moiety and the competitor moiety are not molecular implants, but instead they are molecules as clearly shown by the statements in March. For example, March states in paragraph 11 that "[the] nature of the molecule used as the receptor moiety depends on the particular analyte to be detected, but minimally includes that portion of the molecular which is sufficient to contain an analyte/competitor moiety binding site." March even gives some examples of receptor moiety, such as concanavalin A (a protein), antibodies, boronic acid glucose oxidase (paragraph 12). In paragraph 18, March provides examples of molecules for competitor moiety.

Furthermore, March does not teach nor suggest anything about the formation of molecular imprints in contact lenses "by curing a polymerizable composition comprising an analyte of interest to form the contact lens and then extracting the analyte of interest from the contact lens." March teaches how to make contact lens by curing a polymerizable composition comprising a receptor moiety and a competitor moiety to form the contact lens. This composition for making contact lenses in March does not include an analyte of interest. March is also totally silent about extracting of the analyte of interest from the contact lens to form molecular imprint in the lens because in the first place there is no analye of interest to be extracted in the lens. What can be extracted is the receptor moiety or competitor moiety. However, the receptor moiety and/or competitor moiety must not be extracted out from the lens to form molecular imprints for those being extracted, as required by one of the limitation in the claims of the application. If either of the receptor and competitor moieties are extracted out of the lens, then the principle of the March's invention is destroyed because there is no binding sites for analyte to bind or no detectable signal derived from labeled competitor moiety.

In addition, as stated by the applicants previously, molecular imprints are not molecules but instead they are **molecular cavities** (i.e., with the molecular size of the analyte and being complementary in shape and functionality to the template molecule (here an analyte of interest) used to form molecular imprints.

In sum, March is totally silent about molecular imprints, does not appreciate molecular imprints, and as such, have not placed themselves and the public in the possession of the invention as currently claimed by applicants. Since the cited reference does not disclose all of the limitations of the invention as currently claimed, it does not anticipate the invention as currently claimed, or in alternative, render the invention obvious. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, the Applicant submit that the rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2965.

Respectfully submitted,



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